

CHS NEWS

A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

June 12, 2000

NEWS BRIEFS

Looking For Smokers

If you have smoked for the last 10 years or more and have tried to quit and would like to try again, there's a research project looking for you. Call Pat Brodie in MHMR at 502-564-4527.

Keep Getting Physical

Don't forget the Let's Get Physical breaks every Wednesday through June 28 from 9:45-10:00 a.m. and from 2:45-3:00 p.m. and remember to complete your activity sheets. They are to be turned in to Kristi Adkins on June 29. There will be an awards ceremony June 30 from 1-2:30 p.m. for participants.



TIP OF
THE
WEEK

Many people spend a good portion of their day sitting in front of a computer, and it may be affecting their eyes. Symptoms of computer-related eye-strain include: tired, sore, itchy, dry, or burning eyes, headaches, neckaches and backaches. Position your monitor at eye level or slightly below, give your eyes frequent breaks (30 seconds every 10 minutes), and move your monitor to avoid glare.

Wage Equity Plan Starts In July

The first part of Gov. Patton's Wage Equity Plan will be taking effect July 1 of this year. The governor announced in March his plan to address "grievous inequities" in the current compensation system for state employees.

Here are the highlights for the portion that goes into effect July 1: (None of the provisions of this initiative will affect the 5% increase in wages each employee will receive on their annual increment date.)



- Shift the grade of all employees formerly in Grade 9 to Grade 10.
- Grades 2 through 8 will be renamed to Grades 3 through 9.
- Establish the entry-level wage for Grade 3 (old Grade 2) at \$5.120 per hour. (Note: This is for purposes of calculating successive grades. The actual minimum entry-level wage of jobs assigned this grade would be the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.)
- Establish the entry-level wage of each successive grade at 10% higher than the previous grade.
- Establish the midpoint wage of each grade at 39%

higher than the entry-level wage of that grade.

(Note: The effect of these changes to the wage assigned to each grade will be to increase both the entry-level wage and the midpoint wage of each grade by 2.4% and to increase the entry-level wage of each grade by an extra 5% to reduce the spread between the entry-level wage and the midpoint wage from the present 46% to 39%.)

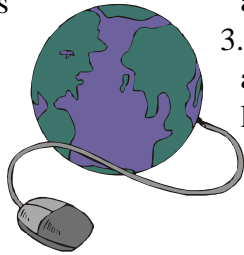
- Increase the grade of all employees who are 3, 4 or 5 grades below where they should be according to the evaluation system used by the Personnel Cabinet to determine the relative value of each job within the state job plan so that these jobs are two grades below where they are supposed to be.
- Set the minimum wage of each employee at 5% greater than the entry-level wage of their grade provided the employee has completed their probationary period.

More changes are scheduled to take effect in future years. For more details of the plan, go to the Personnel Cabinet's website at: <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/personnel/payraise.htm>

A Few Tips On Health Care Web Sites

The Internet has become a valuable tool, especially for health agencies. We asked Ann Marks, executive director of the Commission for Children With Special Health Care Needs, to provide suggestions on looking for web sites and a few of her favorites.

With over 20,000 health care web sites, care coordinators must recognize that all health care sites are not created equal. There are many quality health care sites to help payers, providers and consumers. In evaluating the reliability of on-line health care information here are some helpful tips:



1. Find a web site that lists a person, institution or organization in which you

already have confidence. Seek info from several sources and don't rely on a single source (site).

2. Only trust if you can validate the source of information. Authors and contributors should be identified, along with their affiliations and financial interests.
3. Any web site can link to another so don't let a long list of other health care sites fool you.
4. Make sure all clinical information includes the date of publication or modification. Clinical sources should be clearly referenced and acknowledged.
5. Determine if the site is

professionally managed and reviewed by an editorial board of experts.

My use of web sites is divided into three categories: 1) sites related to my occupation (health care-disability management 2) my professional affiliations and 3) my love of old houses. Here are a few health sites and one on old homes I use in my free time that I have found to be helpful:

<http://www.disabilitymall.com>
<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu>
<http://www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual>
<http://www.cmsa.org>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/thisoldhouse/home.html>

Close Out For FY 2000; Deadlines For Processing Payments

Alert to all staff in CHS who are involved in processing payments. Here's some news concerning the closeout for fiscal year 2000: Get your landing gear ready.

All payments for the Cabinet for Health Services are to be entered, approved and released in MARS by close of business **JULY 6, 2000**.

A). For payments in which the Department/Agency is currently authorized to enter, approve and release the final date for such is **C.O.B. on July 6, 2000**. This includes personal service contracts, memorandum of agreements, delivery orders, etc.

B) For all payments processed by CHS OPS staff, the deadline for submission to FMRB is **C.O.B. July 5, 2000**.

Bart Bolin

CHS lost a valued employee when Bart Bolin passed away last Friday. Bart, 51, had been a state employee since 1979. He was serving as the cabinet's safety officer when he died.

Bart's colleagues recall him as being very knowledgeable of safety rules and regulations and taking great pride in making sure facilities were safe for patients as well as employees. Bart was also very helpful offering advice when capital construction projects were being planned.

Sick Leave Request

Shirleen Wilson in Vital Statistics is requesting voluntary sick leave donations. Call Karen Johnston, 564-4212, ext. 3978. Employees must have a balance of at least 75 hours after donating time.